

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1158 without my signature.

The Kaiser Family Foundation and Health Research and Educational Trust recently determined that health insurance premiums have steadily risen by double digits every year since 2001. The same group found that the most common reason stated by employers for not offering health coverage was high premiums.

While I want children with hearing impairments to have hearing aids, I am concerned that increasing the cost of health coverage by mandating benefits, if even by a small amount, would have the far more serious consequence of leaving some children without health insurance whatsoever.

For the reasons stated above I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger